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Les derniers Jours de l'État du Congo. Par Emile Vandervelde, Professeur à l'Université Nouvelle. 198 pp. and Illustrations. Édition de la Société Nouvelle, Paris and Mons, 1909.

Prof. Vandervelde has been one of the ablest and severest critics, in the Belgian parliament, of policies that inflicted cruelty and injustice upon the black population of the Congo Free State. His visit to that country was only for three or four months, in the last days of the State before it became a Colony of Belgium; but he had studied the country so well, as a Belgian publicist, that he knew just what he wished to see, and his high position gave him unusual advantages for seeing a great deal in a short time. His book is simply the journal of his travels, a description of what he saw or learned on credible authority, with his own comments and suggestions. He saw much to commend and considerable to censure in the management of affairs during the last weeks of the old régime. He is especially severe upon the conduct of some of the government hospitals which he found in a disgraceful condition. On the whole, he saw great amelioration in the conditions that had oppressed the blacks. He found much that is hopeful in the prospects of the colony, for its resources are undoubtedly great and may be made a blessing to the natives and the whites. This book by a man of affairs, a keen observer and a good writer is one of the best that has recently appeared on the Congo.

Through the Yukon and Alaska. By T. A. Rickard. xiii and 392 pp., 175 Illustrations, 9 Maps and Index. Mining and Scientific Press, San Francisco, 1909. \$2.50.

An interesting volume describing the author's experiences in travelling over 8,000 miles through Alaska and the Yukon district in 1908. The volume is not, however, merely a traveller's tale, for much attention is given to the history of development of the mining centers visited and to chronicling stories of the "early days" that have already become legends, so rapidly have events moved in the gold regions of Alaska in the last few years. The account begins with the start from Seattle and describes in turn Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, White Horse, Dawson, Fairbanks, St. Michael, Nome, and thence back to San Francisco. Other chapters describe the natives, the development of mining methods, the possibilities of Arctic agriculture and many other phases of life in Alaska that would ordinarily be neglected in a more technical account of the country.

The author is keenly alive to the beauties and to the hardships of life in the far north, has a thorough understanding of mining methods and knows the geology of the area through its literature. He has refrained from including details of a scientific nature, however, except where such details are necessary for the purposes of his book. He has presented an attractive account of human conditions in the mining sections of the far north and has recorded many phases of life that are rapidly being superceded.

As a contribution to the history of the Alaskan gold rush and as a statement of conditions as they existed in 1908, the volume deserves a place of importance in the literature dealing with the areas described.

An Outline Review of the Geology of Peru. By G. I. Adams. The Smithsonian Report for 1908, pp. 385-430, with plates 1-5, Washington, D. C., 1909.

Mr. Adams was employed by the Peruvian Government for hydrologic studies.